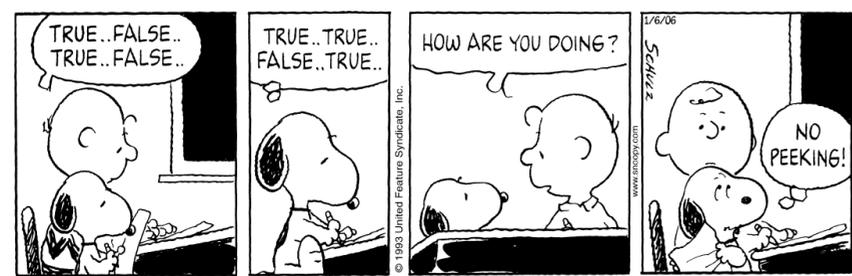


GARFIELD



PEANUTS



ALLEY OOP



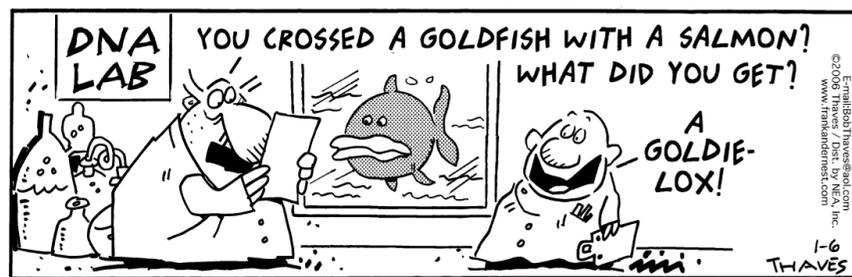
SOUP TO NUTS



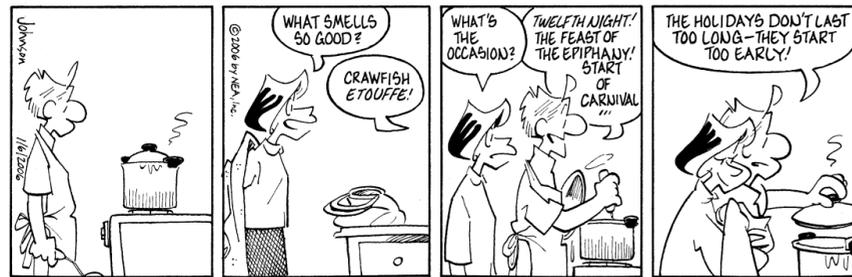
THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



ARLO AND JANIS



DILBERT



COMMITTED



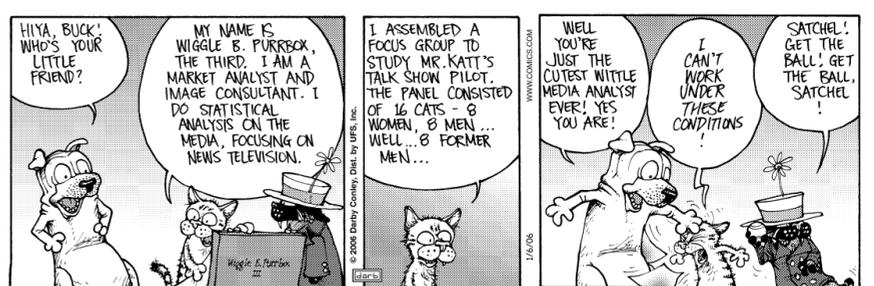
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



HERMAN



GET FUZZY



GRAND AVENUE



ASTROGRAPH

Your birthday:

Friday, Jan. 6, 2006 Before starting any new venture in the year ahead, be sure to complete to your satisfaction all those which you already have in motion. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You won't have any tolerance for those who try to boss you around today, yet, ironically, this could be the exact tactic you'll attempt to use in your dealings with cohorts or associates. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) It doesn't hurt to be a charitable listener today. If you are unwilling to listen to the other guy's stories or points of view, you can bet your bottom dollar that this person will tune you out as well. PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) When out on the town today with friends whose budgets are far more elastic than yours, don't go into a hole attempting to keep up with them. There is much merit in living within your budget. ARIES (March 21-April 19) Try to minimize your involvement with strong-willed associates today. You won't appreciate anyone trying to chart a course you don't wish to follow. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Unfortunately, you may have a knack today for putting your foot in the glue and getting stuck. Be careful you don't create problems for yourself. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Mind your own business today, especially getting overly curious about a com-

plicated problem of a friend. Your pal may use your interests as an excuse to dump the entire burden onto you. CANCER (June 21-July 22) When it comes to a delicate career matter today, think and speak in terms of "we" instead of just "I." If you appear too self-centered, a cohort may saw off that fragile limb you're sitting on. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You'll get a response, all right, but not the results for which you are hoping today if you attempt to impose your ideas on your co-workers. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Be extremely wary today of a proposition that offers you a lot of "pie in the sky." Proposals of this nature are more than likely to be just a piece of burned crust that you'll have to eat. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You would be wise to comply with any unreasonable demand made upon you by your mate today instead of fighting it. In doing so, it will muffle rumbles that might otherwise occur. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Today if you expect to inspire perfection in your co-workers or associates, you had better first set the right example. Associates will emulate only the actions and behavior they admire. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You have a tendency toward gambling, and today this urge could be quite strong. Guard your resources. Don't bet on long shots, whether it's on horses, people or stocks.



'Dear Abby' by Pauline Phillips and Jeanne Phillips

Receptionist won't let woman outgrow childhood nickname

DEAR ABBY: I am a 48-year-old woman who was known by the nickname "Pudge" while I was in high school because so many other girls had the same common name. I have carefully told all my old friends that, while my nickname was cute for a 15-year-old, it no longer suited me. Most of them have made the change out of respect for me. What should I tell my doctor's receptionist, who did not know me before, but insists on using my nickname? She also uses the nickname on mail sent to my home.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes 'Answer to Previous Puzzle' and a list of crossword clues.

PUZZLE ENTHUSIASTS: Get more puzzles in "Random House Crossword MegaOmnibus" Vols. 1 & 2.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-60 indicating starting points for clues.

DEAR ABBY: I have been happily married for five years to a wonderful man I met on the Internet. He moved here to Idaho after our marriage. (He's from Minnesota). We have traveled by road or by plane four or five times during the past five years to Minnesota to visit his relatives. However, my in-laws have made only one attempt to come to visit us. My father-in-law has since passed away. We have attempted to coax my mother-in-law to come to Idaho to visit us and the four grandkids we have had over the last five years, but she claims she's afraid of flying. When we suggested a bus, she came up with another excuse. We invited her to Idaho for Christmas and she refused, saying e-mail, Internet photos and phone calls are enough for her. She is involved with her friends, card games, weight-loss programs, Red Hat Society etc. She is only 72 and healthy and wealthy. Have you any suggestions? I think she is being selfish but don't know how to fix the problem, and my husband is hurt by it. — FORGOTTEN IN IDAHO DEAR FORGOTTEN: Your mother-in-law appears to be selfish and self-centered, but much as you would like to, you can't change her. You and your husband will be less hurt and disappointed if you accept the fact that his mother is flawed, do not personalize it any further and go on with your lives. Dear Abby is written by Pauline Phillips and her daughter Jeanne Phillips. Write to Dear Abby at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.